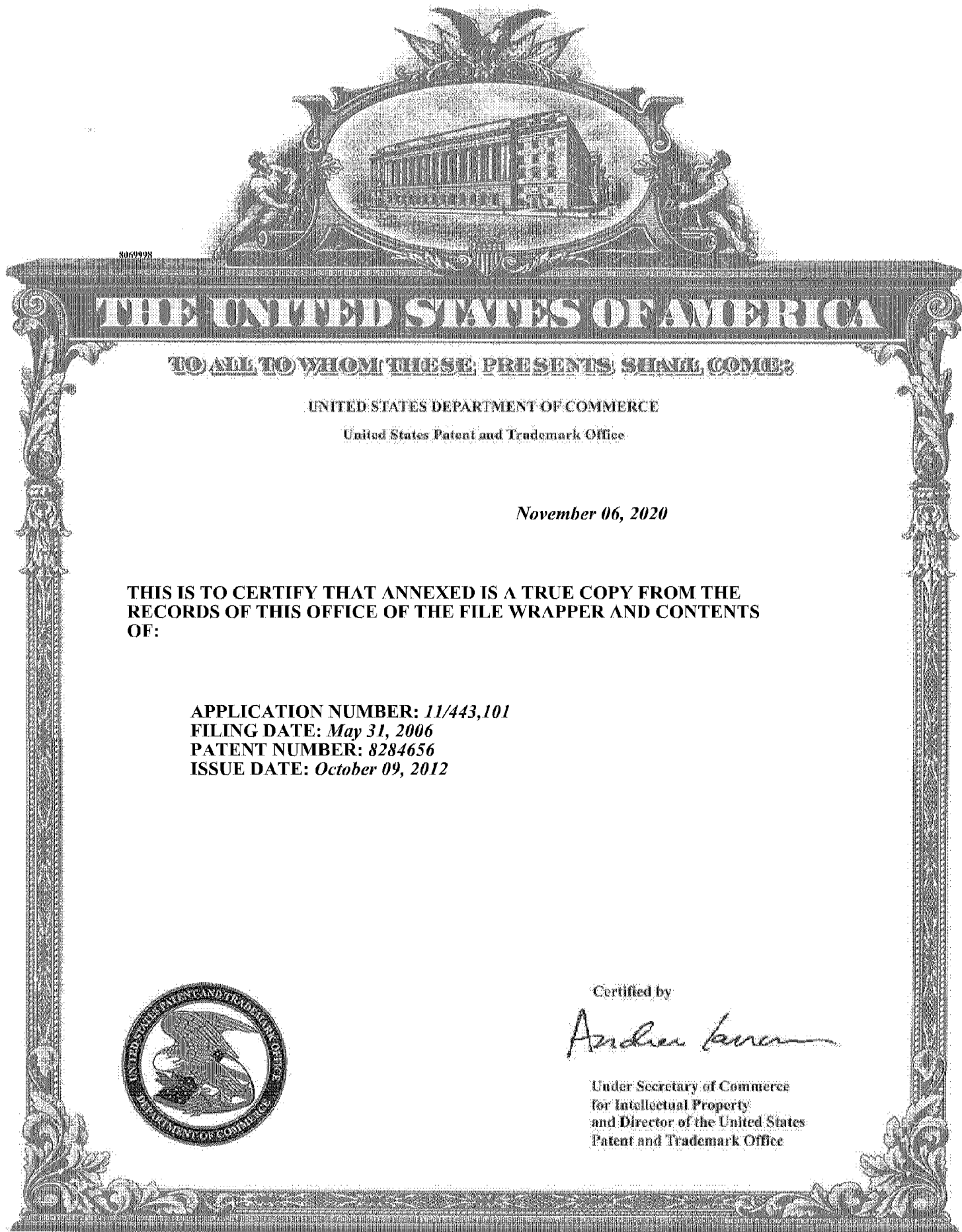


EXHIBIT 7



PTO/SB/05 (05-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0032

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))	Attorney Docket No.	ALC 3242.01
	First Inventor	Kajal Saha, et al.
	Title	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RESILIENT VPLS OVER MULTI-NODAL APS PROTECTED PROVIDER EDGE NODES
	Express Mail Label No.	

APPLICATION ELEMENTS See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.	ADDRESS TO: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450																
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) (Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification [Total Pages <u>19</u>] Both the claims and abstract must start on a new page (For information on the preferred arrangement, see MPEP 608.01(a)) 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets <u>3</u>] 5. Oath or Declaration [Total Sheets <u>6</u>] a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy) b. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed) i. <input type="checkbox"/> DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) name in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76 7. <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix) <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD 8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, items a. - c. are required) a. Computer Readable Form (CRF) i. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Form (CRF) ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer Request (37 CFR 1.821(e)) b. Specification Sequence Listing on: i. <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statements verifying identity of above copies	ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) Name of Assignee <u>Alcatel</u> 10. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney 11. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable) 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of foreign patent documents, publications, & other information 13. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment 14. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized) 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed) 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Nonpublication Request under 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or equivalent. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____																
18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in the first sentence of the specification following the title, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76: <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Divisional <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____ Prior application information: Examiner _____ Art Unit: _____																	
19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The address associated with Customer Number: <u>30868</u> OR <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Name</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Address</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>City</td> <td>State</td> <td>Zip Code</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Country</td> <td>Telephone</td> <td>Email Address</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Name				Address				City	State	Zip Code		Country	Telephone	Email Address	
Name																	
Address																	
City	State	Zip Code															
Country	Telephone	Email Address															
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Signature</td> <td><u>Terry W. Kramer</u></td> <td>Date</td> <td><u>May 31, 2006</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Name (Print/Type)</td> <td>Terry W. Kramer</td> <td>Registration No./ (Attorney/Agent)</td> <td>41,541</td> </tr> </table>		Signature	<u>Terry W. Kramer</u>	Date	<u>May 31, 2006</u>	Name (Print/Type)	Terry W. Kramer	Registration No./ (Attorney/Agent)	41,541								
Signature	<u>Terry W. Kramer</u>	Date	<u>May 31, 2006</u>														
Name (Print/Type)	Terry W. Kramer	Registration No./ (Attorney/Agent)	41,541														

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.53(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

150272

WE CLAIM:

1. A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a VPLS network comprising:

a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

a first provider edge node adapted to function as a working node of the redundant pair; and

a second provider edge node adapted to function as a protection node of the redundant pair;

wherein the first provider edge node is adapted to upon a switchover in the redundant pair:

send an explicit request to a third provider edge node which possesses a MAC address entry that the third provider edge node previously learned from the first provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry.

2. A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 wherein the redundant pair of provider edge nodes are configured to be an APS 1+1 redundant pair.

3. A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 further comprising:

an access switch linked to the first provider edge node over a working link and linked to the second provider edge node over a protection link;

wherein the access switch forms a working circuit with the working link and the first provider edge node, and wherein the access switch forms a protection circuit with the protection link and the second provider edge node.

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RESILIENT VPLS OVER MULT- NODAL APS PROTECTED PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.:	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2416
	:	
Examiner	:	Bokhari, Syed M.
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir: In response to the Office Action mailed November 26, 2008, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments for form, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits at the Remarks section of this paper.

Listing of the claims begins at page **2** of this paper.

Remarks begin at page **7** of this paper.

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1 1. (Original) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the
2 edge of a VPLS network comprising:
3 a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:
4 a first provider edge node adapted to function as a working node of the
5 redundant pair; and
6 a second provider edge node adapted to function as a protection node of
7 the redundant pair;
8 wherein the first provider edge node is adapted to upon a switchover in
9 the redundant pair:
10 send an explicit request to a third provider edge node which
11 possesses a MAC address entry that the third provider edge node
12 previously learned from the first provider edge node to flush said MAC
13 address entry.

- 1 2. (Original) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at
2 the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 wherein the redundant

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner, for at least the reasons Applicant submits above, to reconsider and withdraw this rejection of claim 5.

CONCLUSION

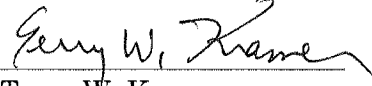
Applicant submits that all pending claims of this application stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, though, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event the fees submitted prove insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Date: December 26, 2008

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-519-9801
Fax: 703-519-9802

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.


Terry W. Kramer
Registration No.: 41,541

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RESILIENT VPLS OVER MULT- NODAL APS PROTECTED PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.:	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2416
	:	
Examiner	:	Bokhari, Syed M.
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir: In response to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2009, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments for form, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action rejections for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits at the Remarks section of this paper.

Listing of the claims begins at page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin at page 8 of this paper.

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A system of redundant pair automatic protection
- 2 switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network
- 3 comprising:
- 4 a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:
- 5 a first provider edge node adapted to function as a working node
- 6 of the redundant pair, [[;]] and
- 7 a second provider edge node adapted to function as a protection
- 8 node of the redundant pair; and
- 9 a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC)
- 10 address entry for the first provider edge node, previously learned by the third
- 11 provider edge node,
- 12 wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working
- 13 node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and
- 14 wherein the first provider edge node is adapted to upon a switchover in
- 15 the redundant pair:
- 16 send an explicit request to the [[a]] third provider edge node ~~which~~
- 17 ~~possesses a MAC address entry that the third provider edge node~~

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

18 ~~previously learned from the first provider edge node~~ to flush said MAC
19 address entry.

1 2. (Currently Amended) A system of redundant pair automatic protection
2 switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 wherein the
3 redundant pair of provider edge nodes are configured to be an Automatic
4 Protection Switching (APS) 1+1 redundant pair.

1 3. (Original) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the
2 edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 further comprising:
3 an access switch linked to the first provider edge node over a working
4 link and linked to the second provider edge node over a protection link;
5 wherein the access switch forms a working circuit with the working
6 link and the first provider edge node, and wherein the access switch forms
7 a protection circuit with the protection link and the second provider edge
8 node.

1 4. (Original) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the
2 edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 further comprising:
3 a first tunnel linking the first provider edge node with the third
4 provider edge node;

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

Applicant further submits that the claims as amended define all acronyms and abbreviations, and therefore overcome the objections to claims 1, 2 and stated at page 2 of the Office Action.

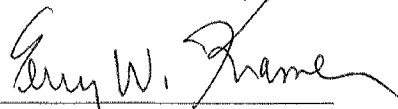
Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner, for at least the reasons that Applicant submits above, to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 6, and of all their dependent claims 2-5 and 7-8.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all pending claims of this application stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, though, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event the fees submitted prove insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.



Terry W. Kramer
Registration No.: 41,541

Date: April 20, 2009

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-519-9801
Fax: 703-519-9802

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha, et al.
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
	:	RESILIENT VPLS OVER
	:	MULTI-NODAL APS PROTECTED
	:	PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.:	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2473
	:	
Examiner	:	Bokhari, Syed M.
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 22, 2010, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments for form, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action rejections for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits at the Remarks section of this paper.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS begin on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS begin on page 8 of this paper.

Application No: 11/443,101
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims, with an indication of the status of each claim, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A system of redundant pair automatic protection
2 switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network
3 comprising:
 - 4 a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:
 - 5 a first provider edge node ~~adapted to function as~~ that is a working
6 node of the redundant pair before a switchover and a protection node of
7 the redundant pair after the switchover, and
 - 8 a second provider edge node ~~adapted to function as a~~ that is the
9 protection node of the redundant pair before the switchover and the
10 working node of the redundant pair after the switchover; and
 - 11 a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC)
12 address entry for the first provider edge node, previously learned by the third
13 provider edge node,
 - 14 wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working
15 node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and

Application No: 11/443,101
 Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

16 wherein the first provider edge node₁ ~~is adapted to upon a~~ after the
 17 switchover in the redundant pair₁ ~~send~~ sends an explicit request to the third
 18 provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry.

1 2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system of redundant pair automatic~~
 2 ~~protection switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1,~~
 3 wherein the redundant pair of provider edge nodes ~~are configured to be~~ is
 4 an Automatic Protection Switching (APS) 1+1 redundant pair.

1 3. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system of redundant pair automatic protection~~
 2 ~~switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1,~~ further
 3 comprising:

4 an access switch linked to the first provider edge node over a working
 5 link and linked to the second provider edge node over a protection link;
 6 wherein the access switch forms a working circuit with the working link and
 7 the first provider edge node, and wherein the access switch forms a protection
 8 circuit with the protection link and the second provider edge node.

1 4. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system of redundant pair automatic protection~~
 2 ~~switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1,~~ further
 3 comprising:

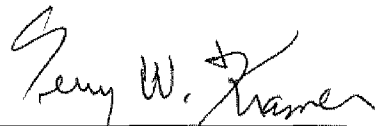
Application No: 11/443,101
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all pending claims of this application stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, though, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event the fees submitted prove insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Kramer", is written over a horizontal line.

Terry W. Kramer
Registration No.: 41,541

Date: March 23, 2010

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-519-9801
Fax: 703-519-9802

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
	:	RESILIENT VPLS OVER MULTI-
	:	NODAL APS PROTECTED
	:	PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2473
	:	
Examiner	:	Syed M. Bokhari
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed herewith.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The party in interest is Alcatel, by way of an Assignment recorded at Reel 017945, frame 0244.

Application No: 11/443,101
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons discussed above, Appellant respectfully submits that the rejections are in error and that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Appellant respectfully requests that this Honorable Board reverse the rejections of claims 1-11.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

Date: April 18, 2011

Terry W. Kramer
Reg. No. 41,541

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel. (703) 519-9801
Fax. (703) 519-9802

Application No: 11/443,101
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL:

1. (Rejected) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network comprising:

a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

a first provider edge node that is a working node of the redundant pair before a switchover and a protection node of the redundant pair after the switchover, and

a second provider edge node that is the protection node of the redundant pair before the switchover and the working node of the redundant pair after the switchover; and

a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC) address entry for the first provider edge node, previously learned by the third provider edge node, wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and wherein the first provider edge node, after the switchover in the redundant pair, sends an explicit request to the third provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry.

2. (Rejected) The system of claim 1, wherein the redundant pair of provider edge nodes is an Automatic Protection Switching (APS) 1+1 redundant pair.

3. (Rejected) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
	:	RESILIENT VPLS OVER MULTI-
	:	NODAL APS PROTECTED
	:	PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2473
	:	
Examiner	:	Syed M. Bokhari
	:	
Att. Docket	:	AIC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed herewith.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

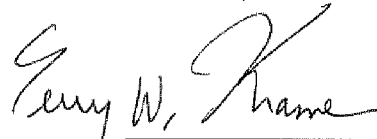
The party in interest is Alcatel, by way of an Assignment recorded at Reel 017945, frame 0244.

Application No: 11/443,101
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons discussed above, Appellant respectfully submits that the rejections are in error and that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Appellant respectfully requests that this Honorable Board reverse the rejections of claims 1-11.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Kramer", is written over a horizontal line.

Terry W. Kramer
Reg. No. 41,541

Date: April 26, 2011

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel. (703) 519-9801
Fax. (703) 519-9802

Application No: 11/443,101
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL:

1. (Rejected) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network comprising:

a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

a first provider edge node that is a working node of the redundant pair before a switchover and a protection node of the redundant pair after the switchover, and

a second provider edge node that is the protection node of the redundant pair before the switchover and the working node of the redundant pair after the switchover; and

a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC) address entry for the first provider edge node, previously learned by the third provider edge node, wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and wherein the first provider edge node, after the switchover in the redundant pair, sends an explicit request to the third provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry.

2. (Rejected) The system of claim 1, wherein the redundant pair of provider edge nodes is an Automatic Protection Switching (APS) 1+1 redundant pair.

3. (Rejected) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha, et al.
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
	:	RESILIENT VPLS OVER
	:	MULTI-NODAL APS PROTECTED
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Art Unit	:	2473
	:	
Examiner	:	Bokhari, Syed M.
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 22, 2011, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments for form, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action rejections for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits in the Remarks section of this paper.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS begin on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS begin on page 8 of this paper.

Application No: 11/443,101
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims, with an indication of the status of each claim, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network comprising a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

a first provider edge node that is a working node of the redundant pair before a switchover and a protection node of the redundant pair after the switchover, and

a second provider edge node that is the protection node of the redundant pair before the switchover and the working node of the redundant pair after the switchover; and

a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC) address entry for the first provider edge node, previously learned by the third provider edge node, wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and ~~wherein the first provider edge node~~, after the switchover in the redundant pair, sends an explicit request to the third provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry for the first provider edge node.

Application No: 11/443,101
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all pending claims of this application stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, though, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues. In the event the fees submitted prove insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

/Eric J. Nuss/

Date: August 17, 2011

Eric J. Nuss
Registration No.: 40,106

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha, et al.
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
	:	RESILIENT VPLS OVER
	:	MULTI-NODAL APS PROTECTED
	:	PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2473
	:	
Examiner	:	Bokhari, Syed M.
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 9, 2012, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments for form, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action rejections for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits in the Remarks section of this paper.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS begin on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS begin on page 9 of this paper.

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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims, with an indication of the status of each claim, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network comprising a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

a first provider edge node that is a working node of the redundant pair before a switchover and a protection node of the redundant pair after the switchover, and

a second provider edge node that is the protection node of the redundant pair before the switchover and the working node of the redundant pair after the switchover; and

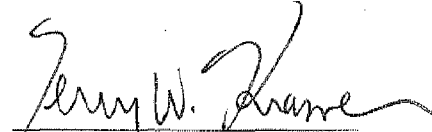
a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC) address entry for the first provider edge node; previously learned by the third provider edge node, wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and, after the switchover in the redundant pair, sends an explicit request to the third provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry for the first provider edge node.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all pending claims of this application stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, though, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues. In the event the fees submitted prove insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.



Terry W. Kramer
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Date: May 4, 2012

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